

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02376 01 OF 02 032013Z

71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CAB-05 EB-07

FBIE-00 SY-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 ACDA-10 /087 W

----- 116493

R 031939Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1875

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 2376

CARACAS FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

PASS TO WILLIAM HENDRICKS, NTSB, CENTRAL INVESTIGATION
DIVISION, AVIATION ACCIDENT BRANCH (AI-11)

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, BB, CU

SUBJECT: JUDICIAL INQUIRY-- FREDDY LUGO STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 11,
1976

REF BRIDGETOWN 2335

1. FULL TEXT OF LUGO STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 11 FOLLOWS:

" MY NAME IS FREDDY LUGO. I WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 17,
1942, IN CARACAS. I DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. I KNOW ONLY
A FEW WORDS OF ENGLISH. I CANNOT CONVERSE IN ENGLISH.
MY JOB DEALS WITH THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTER-
I TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OF INTERVIEWS BETWEEN THE MINISTER
AND VISITORS TO SEND TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESS. I
HAVE TO TRAVEL OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THERE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 02376 01 OF 02 032013Z

ARE PETROLEUM ACTIVITIES. I MYSELF TAKE THE PHOTOGRAPHS.

I HAVE NEVER TRAVELLED TO CUBA. I TRAVELLED TO BARBADOS TO OBTAIN QUOTATIONS ON PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, I DID NOT ASK FOR ANY QUOTATIONS WHEN I WAS THERE. FROM THE AIRPORT WE WENT INTO TOWN IN BARBADOS BUT IT WAS TOO LATE TO GET QUOTATIONS BECAUSE THE SHOPS WERE SHUT. I WAS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY MY FRIEND, HERNAN, DURING MY STAY IN BARBADOS. NEITHER OF US ASKED FOR ANY QUOTATIONS ON PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT IN ANY PART OF BARBADOS. THIS HERNAN OF WHOM I SPEAK IS MR. HERNAN RICARDO LOZANO, KNOWN ALSO AS JOSE VASQUEZ GARCIA. AFTER HAVING SEEN THAT THE SHOPS WERE SHUT WE WENT TO THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL BY TAXI. I WAS LOOKING FOR QUOTATIONS ON THE MOST MODERN NIKON AMERA F1 OR F2 WITH ACCESSORIES.

" I ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL BETWEEN 7:00 AND 8:00 PM. WE HAD ARRIVED IN THE HEART OF BRIDGETOWN AT ABOUT 2:00 PM AND THE SHOPS WERE SHUT. BETWEEN 2:00 PM AND 7: PM WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL, WE WALKED THROUGH THE TOWN. AT ABOUT 3:00 PM. WE WENT TO THE HOLIDAY INN. MY FRIEND, HERNAN, WENT INTO THE HOTEL TO MAKE SOME TELEPHONE CALLS AND I WENT TO LOOK AT THE POOL. I STAYED BY THE POOL WHILE HERNAN WAS IN THE HOTEL. I DRANK A COCA-COLA AND THEN WE WENT. WE LEFT THE HOTEL AT ABOUT 3:30 PM. I DID NOT MAKE ANY CALLS FROM THE HOLIDAY INN, ONLY MY FRIEND HERNAND DID SO. HE DID NOT TELL ME HOW MANY CALLS HE MADE. WE DID NOT MAKE ANY RESERVATIONS AT THE HOLIDAY INN. I DID NOT ENTER IN ANY OF THE ROOMS OF THE HOLIDAY INN BUT I DO NOT NOW WHETHER HERNAND DID SO.

"I HAVE A SEIKO WATCH. MY FRIEND, HERNAN, ASKED ME FOR IT YESTERDAY, OCTOBER 10, IN THE EVENING WHEN WE WERE SEPARATED AND I GAVE IT TO HIM. ON THIS TRIP I DID NOT NOTICE WHETHER HERNAN HAD A WATCH. THE WATCH WHICH MR. DURANT SHOWED ME LOOKED LIKE THAT OF MY FRIEND. I SAW THE INITIALS HRL ON THE WATCH. THOSE ARE THE INITIALS OF MY FRIEND HERNAN-HERNAN RICARDO LOZANO. I DO NOT REMEMBER HAVING SEEN HERNAN WITH THAT WATCH EITHER ON HIS WRIST OR IN HIS POSSESSION AT ALL. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE STEM CONNECTING ONE END OF THE STRAP TO THE WATCH IS MISSING. THE KEY RING WHICH MR DURANT SHOWED ME IS MINE. IT HOLDS A KEY WHICH IS MY CAR-KEY AND A NAIL CLIPPER WHICH IS MINE.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BRIDGE 02376 01 OF 02 032013Z

I LENT THE KEY RING, WITH THE CAR-KEY AND NAIL-CLIPPER, TO HERNAN ON OCTOBER 6 BUT I DO NOT REMEMBER WHERE WE WERE AT THAT TIME. I LET IT TO MY FRIEND BECAUSE HE WANTED TO USE THE NAIL CLIPPER TO CLIP HIS NAILS.

"THE LAST TIME I SAW MY FRIEND WITH THE WATCH WITH THE INITIALS HRL WAS ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 5. THIS WAS EITHER IN THE TAXI GOING TO MAIQUETIA AIRPORT IN CARACAS OR IN THE AEROPLANE ON THE FLIGHT FROM CARACAS TO TRINIDAD.

"WE WENT INTO TOWN IN BARBADOS FROM THE HOLIDAY INN AT ABOUT 3:30 PM BY TAXI. ON ARRIVING IN TOWN FROM THE HOLIDAY INN WE WALKED ABOUT THE TOWN AND THEN WE TOOK A TAXI TO THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL. HERNAN HAD INVITED ME TO TRAVEL WITH HIM TO GET QUOTATIONS ON PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT. OUR ROUTE WAS CARACAS PORT OF SPAIN-BARBADOS BUT EACH OF US PAID FOR HIS OWN PASSAGE. HERNAN HAD INVITED ME TO TRAVEL WITH HIM ABOUT FOUR DAYS BEFORE OCTOBER 5-THE DAY ON WHICH WE TRAVELLED. WE LEFT CARACAS ON PANAM ON OCTOBER 5, I THINK. I TRAVELLED FROM CARACAS WITH A BLACK TRAVELLING BAG CONTAINING PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES AND PERSONAL CLOTHING. I HAD NO OTHER BAGGAGE. MY FRIEND HAD A BLACK OR BROWN SUITCASE. THE AEROPLANE LEFT CARACAS AT A LITTLE AFTER MID-NIGHT BUT I DO NOT KNOW AT WHAT TIME IT ARRIVED IN TRINIDAD. I STAYED AT THE HOLIDAY INN IN TRINIDAD. ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING WE LEFT THE HOLIDAY INN BETWEEN 7:00 AND 8:00 AM TO GO TO BARBADOS. WE ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT IN TRINIDAD BETWEEN 0:00 AND 10:00 AM. NO AIRLINE CLERK OFFERED US ANY FLIGHT ON BWIA. WE TRAVELLED ON CUBANA BECAUSE IT WAS THE ONLY FLIGHT WE WERE OFFERED HERE IN TRINIDAD.

"WHEN I PASSED THROUGH IMMIGRATION IN TRINIDAD MY TRAVELLING BAG WAS OPENED, EXAMINED AND SCANNED. I CARRIED MY TRAVELLING BAG IN MY HAND ON THE AIRCRAFT. WE WERE SEATED AT ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE AIRCRAFT. MY FRIEND GOT UP TO GO THE BATHROOM BUT I DID NOT GET UP AT ALL DURING THE FLIGHT. WHEN MY FRIEND WENT TO THE BATHROOM HE SHUT THE DOOR BUT IT GOT JAMMED SO HE BANGED ON IT UNTIL A PILOT OPENED IT. AN AIR-HOSTESS HAD CALLED THE PILOT ON HEARING MY FRIEND BANGING ON THE DOOR. HERNAN WAS LOCKED IN THE BATHROOM FOR THREE TO FIVE MINUTES. THIS INCIDENT HAPPENED ABOUT TEN MINUTES AFTER TAKE-OFF. I HEARD WHAT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 BRIDGE 02376 01 OF 02 032013Z

WAS HAPPENING TO MY FRIEND BUT I DID NOT GET UP TO DO ANYTHING, I REMAINED SEATED. THERE WERE ABOUT FIVE OR

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02376 02 OF 02 032052Z

71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 CAB-05 EB-07

FBIE-00 SY-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 ACDA-10 /087 W

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R 031939Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1876

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 BRIDGETOWN 2376

OR SIX ROWS OF SEATS IN FRONT

OF ME IN THE AIRCRAFT. I WAS SEATED AT ABOUT THREE OR FOUR METRES FROM THE CONTROL DOOR. I LEFT TRINIDAD BETWEEN 12 NOON AND 12:30 PM AND THE FLIGHT LASTED ABOUT FORTY MINUTES.

"ON LEAVING THE AIRPORT IN BARBADOS WE TOOK A TAXI AND WENT INTO TOWN. IT WAS THEN THAT WE SAW THAT THE SHOPS WERE SHUT. WE DID NOT STOP ANYWHERE BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND TOWN. WE STAYED IN THE AIRPORT FOR ABOUT A HALF HOUR COMPLETING ALL THE LEGAL PRCEDURES. ON ARRIVING AT THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL MY FRIEND MADE THE RESERVATION AND I BELIEVE THAT HE DID SO IN BOTH OUR NAMES.

"WE HAD INTENDED TO STAY IN BARBADOS IN THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY. WE WERE THINKING OF SPENDING ABOUT TWO AND HALF DAYS BETWEEN TRINIDAD AND BARBADOS. WE LEFT THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL BETWEEN 7:00 AND 7:30 PM. I WAS THINKING OF GOING OUT FOR SOMETHING TO EAT BUT AFTER WE HAD TRAVELLED FOR SOME DISTANCE IN THE TAXI MY FRIEND TOLD ME, 'LET US GO TO TRINIDAD NOW.' MY FRIEND HAD PROPOSED THE IDEA AND AS WE WERE ALREADY QUITE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 02376 02 OF 02 032052Z

FAR FROM THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL BY THAT TIME I CONSENTED. WHEN MY FRIEND DECIDED TO GO TO TRINIDAD WE WERE NEAR TO THE HEART OF TOWN AND IN A TAXI. I DONT THINK THAT THE TAXI HAD A RADIO.

"WHILE WE WERE IN BARBADOS WE DID NOT RECEIVE ANY NEWS OF THE DISASTER ON THE CUBANA AIRCRAFT BUT WE SAW A

LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE STREETS. I DID NOT HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THE DISASTER. I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE DISASTER UNTIL WE WERE ARRESTED HERE IN TRINIDAD AND CARRIED TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS. WE WERE TOLD ABOUT IT HERE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

"WE CAME TO TRINIDAD FROM BARBADOS ON BWIA ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 6. MY FRIEND PAID FOR THE PASSAGES FROM BARBADOS TO TRINIDAD AND I DID NOT HAVE TIME TO PAY HIM BACK BECAUSE WE WERE ARRESTED ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING. WHEN WE LEFT BARBADOS WE CAME TO TRINIDAD BECAUSE MY FRIEND HAD SUGGESTED IT ALSO BECAUSE WE WANTED TO GET QUOTATIONS ON PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT. IF THE EQUIPMENT WAS CHEAPER HERE IN TRINIDAD WE WOULD HAVE BOUGHT IT HERE. MY FRIEND TOLD ME THAT HE WANTED TO COME TO TRINIDAD TO BUY PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT. AS I KNEW THE PRICE OF THE EQUIPMENT IN BARBADOS FROM A PREVIOUS TRIP I WAS COMING TO TRINIDAD TO COMPARE THE PRICES. IF THE EQUIPMENT IN TRINIDAD WAS MORE EXPENSIVE WE WERE GOING TO BUY IT IN BARBADOS ON OUR RETURN THERE TO COLLECT OUR BAGGAGE, BUT IF IT WAS CHEAPER IN TRINIDAD WE WERE GOING TO BUY IT IN TRINIDAD. WE WERE PLANNING TO CARRY THE EQUIPMENT TO VENEZUELA.

"MY PREVIOUS TRIP TO BARBADOS WAS IN JUNE 1976, I THINK. I HAD GOT QUOTATIONS ON THE EQUIPMENT ON THAT TRIP. I GOT THE QUOTATIONS FROM A SHOP SITUATED NEAR TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN THE HEART OF TOWN IN BARBADOS. THE QUOTATION THAT I GOT WAS FOR A HASEBLAND CAMERA 6 X 6 AND ACCESSORIES PRICED AT BS. 7,500 A BS. 8,000. THIS SHOULD WORK OUT AT ABOUT US \$1,800. HOWEVER, AS THIS WAS TOO EXPENSIVE, ON OUR LAST VISIT I WAS LOOKING FOR A NIKON F1 OR F2 CAMERA, 35 MILLIMETRES WITH ACCESSORIES. I DID NOT GET THE PRICE OF THE NIKON CAMERA IN BARBADOS. WE HAD NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO BUY ONE CAMERA OR MORE TO USE OURSELVES OR TO RE-SELL. WE WANTED THE CAMERA AND ACCESSORIES TOGETHER. I LEFT CARACAS WITH US\$480 - 500. HERNAND HAD INTENDED TO HAVE A CHEQUE SENT FROM CARACAS WITH WHICH TO PURCHASE THE EQUIPMENT AND I WOULD REIMBURSE HIM IN CARACAS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRIDGE 02376 02 OF 02 032052Z

"WE STAYED IN THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS. I DID NOT MAKE ANY TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL. I BELIEVE THAT HERNAN MADE ONE TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL. I BELIEVE THAT HE CALLED HIS MOTHER OR GIRLFRIEND ON ACCOUNT OF PARTS OF THE CONVERSATION THAT I HEARD FROM THE DISTANCE. I BELIEVE THAT HE MADE ONLY ONE TELEPHONE CALL.

"I DO NOT KNOW LUIS POSADA. I DO NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. I DO NOT KNOW ALFREDO GURIERREZ. ON OUR RETURN TO TRINIDAD WHEN WE WERE STAYING IN THE HOLIDAY INN WE ASKED THE RECEPTIONIST TO CALL US AT 7:30 AM BECAUSE WE WANTED TO GO INTO TOWN TO SEE THE SHOPS. WE DID NOT MAKE ANY

RESERVATION TO RETURN TO BARBADOS BECAUSE WE THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE VACANT SEATS ON SOME FLIGHT.

"I DO NOT KNOW ERIC SEALY. I HAVE NO IDEA WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISASTER OF THE CUBANA AEROPLANE IN BARBADOS ON OCTOBER 6. I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE GROUPS 'EL CONDOR' AND 'EL CORU'. I AM ANTI-POLITICAL. I AM NOT A MEMBER OF ANY POLITICAL GROUP. MY FIXED MONTHLY SALARY WITH THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT IS BS.2,400. I ALSO EARN ABOUT BS. 500 MONTHLY FROM PRIVATE ASSIGNMENTS. I DO NOT KNOW ANY MS. VEGA IN CARACAS. I DID NOT MAKE ANY TELEPHONE CALLS TO MS. VEGA FROM BARBADOS. I DO NOT KNOW ORLANDO GARCIA. I DO NOT KNOW ALFREDO GUTIERREZ. "WE LEFT BARBADOS WITHOUT HAVING GOT ANY QUOTATIONS ON PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT BECAUSE THE SHOPS WERE ALMOST ALL SHUT. I HAVE KNOWN HERNAN FOR FOUR OR FIVE YEARS. WE WORKED TOGETHER IN 'EL MUNDO'. I WAS WORKING IN 'EL MUNDO' AS A REPORTER WHEN HE STARTED THERE AS A NEW REPORTER FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO.

"MY LUGGAGE IS IN THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL AT PRESENT. I ONLY FOUND THE BOARDING PASS IN THE NAME OF E. SEALY WHEN I WAS IN THE HOLIDAY INN IN TRINIDAD. I DO NOT KNOW MR. SEALY. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT HE IS A TERRORIST. I DID NOT MEET ANYONE AT PIARCO HERE AFTER HAVING DISEMBARKED FROM THE PAN AM FLIGHT. I HAVE NEVER WORKED WITH ICI. I DO NOT KNOW JOE LEO. I DO NOT KNOW MR. ALVAREZ NOR MR. PANIA NOR MR. ORLANDO BOSCH. I DID NOT TELL ANY OFFICIAL OF THE TRINIDADIAN POLICE THAT I HAD LOST MY LUGGAGE IN BARBADOS. I TOLD THEM THAT MY

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PAGE 04 BRIDGE 02376 02 OF 02 032052Z

LUGGAGE WAS IN THE VILLAGE BEACH HOTEL.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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